



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1184		DATE: 4/11/2023	
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 4/11/2023 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: ArnieDienoff@Yahoo.Com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 4/11/2023 11:32 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CAROL A. SCHREIBER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: carolschrei@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/10/2023 11:27 AM

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I strongly support the ability for curing minor problems with the absentee ballot envelope. Every vote should count and the opportunity to help a voter should be available. Sincerely, Carol Schreiber



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRIS ROEPE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-8760	
REPRESENTING: SECURE DEMOCRACY USA		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 205 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/11/2023 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DENISE LIEBERMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-780-1833	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI VOTER PROTECTION COALITION		TITLE: DIRECTOR & GENERAL COUNSEL	
ADDRESS: 6047 WATERMAN BLVD.			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63112
EMAIL: denise@movpc.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/11/2023 10:00 AM	
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The Missouri Voter Protection Coalition (MOVPC) supports HB 1184, which would allow voters the opportunity to cure minor errors or omissions on their absentee ballot envelopes. This measure provides needed support to voters who cast absentee ballots by mail who may have inadvertently missed a checkbox or other information on the ballot outer envelope -- disproportionately seniors, those with visual impairments, people with disabilities. Recent polling shows Missourians strongly support the ability to correct minor errors on absentee ballots. In 2020, MOPVC filed a federal lawsuit to provide voters the opportunity to cure minor omissions on absentee ballot envelopes after identifying numerous vote by mail ballots that were at risk of not being counted due to minor errors or omissions on the ballot envelope. At the time — during the pandemic when remote voting by absentee ballot soared across the state — some jurisdictions attempted to allow voters to do so; others did not. Last year’s passage of HB 1878 cut off opportunities for voters to cure such errors by defining absentee ballots as “cast” at the time of receipt by the Election Authority. HB1184 provides a meaningful fix to ensure that voters are not unnecessarily disenfranchised due to a minor omission on the ballot envelope that they can correct. Under current law, if the statement on an absentee ballot envelope is incomplete, the ballot must be rejected. This bill would require the election authority to notify the voter that the envelope is missing information and give the voter an opportunity to supply the missing information by visiting the office of the election authority or by completing an affidavit. The Missouri Voter Protection Coalition is Missouri’s statewide nonpartisan network of voter advocates who work to advance the right to vote in Missouri through policy advocacy, strategic litigation, voter education and coordination of the statewide nonpartisan Election Protection program. Through the collective experience of our 50+ partner organizations and nationally recognized expertise of our leaders and partners, over the last 15 years, we have provided this Committee with analysis and assessment of how legislation before the committee stands to impact access to the ballot for Missouri’s voters. Missouri law requires that “[e]ach ballot envelope shall bear a statement on which the voter shall state the voter’s name, the voter’s voting address, the voter’s mailing address and the voter’s reason for voting an absentee ballot.” Mo. Stat. § 115.283.1. If any of this information, which is duplicative of what is provided on the ballot application, is omitted, state law requires that the voter’s ballot be rejected. Mo Stat. § 115.295.2. This hardline rule is applied even when an omission does not call the voter’s identity or eligibility into question. For example, when voters apply for their ballot they submit their address of registration, and the fact that they are eligible to vote at that address is confirmed before the ballot is sent to the voter. And yet, if the voter fails to fill out their address on their ballot envelope, or check a box confirming their voting address is the same as the mailing address the voter submitted to election officials on their application, and at which it arrived if the voter is now filling

out the envelope—and which is often printed on the front of the ballot envelope they received—their ballot will be rejected. Ballot design often contributes to this confusion and immaterial error. This strict rule has resulted in the ballots of eligible voters being rejected, even when Defendants have information available to them to confirm the voter’s eligibility. This violates the Materiality Provision of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (“Materiality Provision”), 52 U.S.C. § 10101(a)(2)(B). Second, Missouri law does not provide that a voter must be notified and given the opportunity to cure any deficiencies with their remote ballots. This results in the disenfranchisement of large numbers of Missouri voters in every election. According to congressional testimony from Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft: What we see in Missouri is that, in every election, about 2 to 3 percent of ballots received by mail are rejected. Perhaps the voter completed the ballot envelope incorrectly or the voter’s signature didn’t match. Maybe the ballot scanner didn’t properly read the ballot. For every 50 mail-in ballots cast by voters, at least one of them doesn’t count. For every 50 of those voters, at least one is disenfranchised. Ensuring a Free, Fair, and Safe Election During the Coronavirus Pandemic, Remote Hearing Before the House Select Subcomm. on the Coronavirus Crisis, 116th Cong. 3–4 (2020) (statement of Jay Ashcroft, Missouri Sec’y of State). The procedures currently used in Missouri do not provide voters with adequate safeguards to protect them from being erroneously deprived of their right to vote. At present, there is no mandated notice and cure process for remote ballots in the State of Missouri. Further, Missouri law requires the rejection of remote ballots that omit certain pieces of information, such as a voter’s name or address. Local election authorities expect voters to know that failing to mark a box the voter is told they “may” check will result in their ballot being rejected. Additionally, ballot envelopes either fail to tell voters directly that the omission of required information will lead to the rejection of their ballots. Some even fail to designate required fields. Missouri is failing to provide voters with both appropriate notice and an opportunity to cure. See *Cleveland Bd. of Educ. v. Loudermill*, 470 U.S. 532, 546 (1985) (“The essential requirements of due process . . . are notice and an opportunity to respond.”). Providing remote voters with a better explanation of what must be completed on a ballot in order to avoid disenfranchisement, as well as a meaningful opportunity to correct ballot errors could mean the difference between thousands of Missouri voters being able to participate in the political process or be denied their fundamental right to vote. Overall, HB 1184 provides a meaningful fix to ensure that voters are not unnecessarily disenfranchised due to a minor omission on the ballot envelope that they can correct. Missouri Voter Protection Coalition urges this committee to vote in favor of this legislation. Sincerely, Denise Lieberman, Director & General Counsel
MISSOURI VOTER PROTECTION COALITION
6047 Waterman Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63112
denise@movpc.org (314) 780-1833 www.movpc.org



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TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ERIC FEY		PHONE NUMBER: 314-615-1950	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ST. LOUIS COUNTY ELECTION BOARD		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS	
ADDRESS: 725 NW PLAZA DR.			
CITY: ST. ANN		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63074
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/11/2023 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: GERRY LANGELER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: NATIONAL VOTE AT HOME INSTITUTE		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: PORTLAND	STATE: OR	ZIP: 97219
EMAIL: gerry.langeler@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/11/2023 12:03 PM
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Curing of minor errors on the return envelope of an absentee ballot is an important part of making sure every legitimate vote counts. It is an important step forward in election process reform. The only suggestion we would make is to allow voters a few days after Election Day to cure their ballots. That way, absentee ballots that arrive on, or just before Election Day will be able to take advantage of this policy every bit as well as those that arrive earlier than that.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: GINA MEYER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jemeyer1955@comcast.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/10/2023 7:28 AM
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Please pass HB1184 and allow all voters the opportunity to participate in democracy. This bill is a rare example of everyone involved in the election process working together for the common good. By passing this bill, the legislator will actually be one of the good guys.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JANE NORRIS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jenorris52@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/10/2023 9:55 AM
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I am support of this legislation



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JEANETTE MOTT OXFORD		PHONE NUMBER: 314-775-3261	
REPRESENTING: PARAQUAD		TITLE: PUBLIC POLICY & ADVOCACY MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 5240 OAKLAND AVENUE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63110
EMAIL: joxford@paraquad.org		ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 4/10/2023 5:52 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Dear Chairwoman McGaugh and Members of the Committee, I am writing on behalf of Paraquad, one of the oldest and largest independent living centers in the U.S., regarding HB 1184 which is to be heard in your committee on April 11. This important legislation, sponsored by Rep. Hovis, sets up a procedure to “cure” absentee ballots when something is missing related to the envelope. The vote inside the envelope cannot be changed. People with disabilities often have a need to vote absentee because of their health, transportation challenges (paratransit services are very limited throughout most of our state), and other obstacles to getting to the polls. Daily life can be complicated for people struggling with a variety of physical, emotional, or mental health conditions. If your personal attendant is sick and an alternative arrangement must be made related to getting out of (or into) bed, having meals, bathing, dressing, etc., one can easily miss seeing one of the instructions about getting the envelope notarized or signing it in a specific place. It would be a shame for a person’s vote to be thrown out over a simple error. One of our foundational principles is that “People with disabilities must be able to participate fully and equally in the democratic process.” HB 1184 would be a help to many people with disabilities who have need to vote by absentee ballot. We hope this bill will have a positive vote in executive session soon and come before the full House. I welcome any questions you may have.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER GUNDY		PHONE NUMBER: 417-448-4969	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ON MY OWN INC./MO CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING		TITLE: EXEC. DIR	
ADDRESS: 428 E. HIGHLAND AVE.			
CITY: NEVADA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64772
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/11/2023 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JOAN GENTRY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: joangentry2012@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/10/2023 4:10 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Dear Chairman and Members of the House Elections and Elected Officials Committee, I am writing in support of HB 1184. This bill allows for the curing of Absentee Ballot Envelopes. This bill actually lets voters know that their participation in an election is a value supported by elected legislators. It provides the message that we are all human, and that on occasion, we all make mistakes. This only relates to the ballot envelope so there is no breach of trust as to the actual ballot. Thank you for supporting HB 1184. Joan Gentry, Springfield 65807



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LAURA K. MARCUS MOUNTJOY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Lmmountjoy@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/10/2023 1:29 PM	
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I want you to vote FOR HB 1184. Voting is the cornerstone of our democracy, and this bill helps voters exercise that right. Improving voter access by establishing a notice and cure process for mail ballot envelopes lacking the required notarization or voter information is the right thing to do for Missourians.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: LAUREN KREISEL		PHONE NUMBER: 660-723-6000	
REPRESENTING: ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 25276 BUTTERFIELD TRAIL			
CITY: WARSAW		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65355
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/11/2023 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MAHREE SKALA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: skalamahree@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/10/2023 12:26 PM
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There currently is no statewide law that addresses ballot curing. A simple mistake should not disenfranchise a voter--this bill would provide a uniform process for mistakes to be fixed by the time the polls close.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MARILYN MCLEOD		PHONE NUMBER: 314-961-6869	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MO		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 8706 MANCHESTER RD. #104			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63144
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/11/2023 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MARK HABBAS		PHONE NUMBER: 314-393-9757	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI STATE COUNCIL OF FIRE FIGHTERS		TITLE: LOBBYIST	
ADDRESS: 205 EAST CAPITAL AVE SUITE 100			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: habbas2665@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/10/2023 8:59 AM	

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First responders vote absentee a lot. We want to make sure that if they forget to sign absentee envelope their vote will still count. They and others deserve the courtesy of an LEA notifying them so they can fix their admin error.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARLA MARANTZ		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: mjmarantz@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/11/2023 11:13 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Voting is the cornerstone of democracy, and every voter should feel welcomed at the polls and all judges are there to make sure voters get to freely and fairly cast their ballots. Filing an absentee ballot can be nerve-racking. Especially if you don't feel well, are alone, and have never done so before. Different jurisdictions have different envelopes and sometimes the wording is confusing. I know. I needed to vote absentee several times now. Several times while quite ill. It can be difficult. We let people have help when they vote in person. We have election judges who make sure the voters sign correctly when they check in. They explain how it works. If the voter says they need help, they may bring a person of their choice or a team of judges provide them the assistance they need. People make mistakes and we should afford them the grace to correct their errors. It is only fair they should be notified and given a chance to have their vote count. Voting shouldn't be a test. Voting is a right. Please let's treat people with dignity and do what we can to help them exercise their freedom to vote. Please vote yes.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL WESTEN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: MichaelWesten.3up@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/6/2023 6:15 PM
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I support HB 1184.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: NANCY JONES		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Nanjon777@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/11/2023 10:53 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.
Some of our elderly voters need extra help with completing the ballot.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: PATRICIA		PHONE NUMBER: 816-813-0167
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, KANSAS CITY		TITLE: VOLUNTEER
ADDRESS: 4331 GILLHAM ROAD		
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 64110
EMAIL: pbartholome50@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/10/2023 8:57 PM

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League of Women Voters supports the proposed legislation that would codify a state-wide method that allows the voter to cure their absentee ballot if missing necessary information. The local election board would alert the voter of necessary changes and either in person or through the mail allow the voter to include the necessary information. Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support of the bill. Pat Bartholome, League of Women Voters, Kansas City.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: RON LEONE		PHONE NUMBER: 660-537-2239
REPRESENTING: AARP		TITLE:
ADDRESS: PO BOX 722		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/11/2023 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SHARON GEUEA JONES		PHONE NUMBER: 573-808-2156	
REPRESENTING: MO VOTER PROTECTION COALITION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 227 JEFFERSON			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65203
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/11/2023 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1184		DATE: 4/11/2023
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/8/2023 11:09 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Effort should be made to notify voters of incomplete information on an absentee ballot and to allow voters to supply the missing information.



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COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: PAMELA K. GROW, M.D.		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: growmd@fidmail.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 4/11/2023 9:13 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee, Thanks for making the opportunity available. I'm a just-retired two-term county clerk from Phelps County. We have roughly 30,000 voters and I was the local election authority for 19 elections. The provision of an opportunity to correct omissions on an absentee ballot envelope, once received by the LEA, are ballot envelope "curing." It is my belief that voters need to be held to a high standard; after all, they should have been expected to be familiar with the 42" by 72", six-column poster filled with statutory language for the ballot issues in November 2022. We should want informed, conscientious and careful voters; not careless and hap-hazard voters. Providing the safety net of envelope curing lowers the expectations of the voters, and might even be said to infantilize them. Voters don't need this paternalism. The statement on an absentee ballot envelope is surely about the most straightforward task presented to any voter. Secondly, I believe there is an element of moral hazard created when the voter returns to the LEA office to complete the items left incomplete on the ballot envelope. Does the voter actually know what he or she is attesting to, with their sworn affidavit? How do they really know that the ballot within the envelope is really what and how they voted? Remember the 2018 U.S. House 9th District race in North Carolina, in which the original Republican victor had his win overturned by the elections board which unanimously ordered a new election because 8 individuals working with the campaign were indicted on charges of obstructing justice and unlawfully possessing absentee ballots for the purpose of "scheming to illegally collect, fill in, forge and submit mail-in ballots." I oppose absentee ballot envelope curing which is proposed in HB 1184. Sincerely, Pamela K. Grow, M.D.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAMELA K. GROW, MD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 4/11/2023 12:00 AM
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